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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,724	12/05/2003	Chih-Ching Hsien	PUSA031122	3964

7590 09/09/2004
CHIH-CHING HSIEN
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TAICHUNG,
TAIWAN

EXAMINER

THOMAS, DAVID B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3723

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/730,724	Applicant(s) HSIEN, CHIH-CHING	
	Examiner David B. Thomas	Art Unit 3723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art, in view of Azkona (6,467,380).

The applicant admits to pliers having handles which are pivotally connected to the jaws of the pliers (see Figs. 7 and 8). The pliers of the prior art read over the claims except for the provision of the mounting tube, push rod, and elastic member mounted between the handles of the pliers. Azkona ('380) discloses a pair of pliers and teaches the provision of a mounting tube, a push rod, and an elastic member mounted between the handles, the purpose of which is to normally bias the handles apart. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the pliers of the applicant's admitted prior art by providing a biasing element between the handles of the pliers, i.e. a mounting tube, a push rod, and an elastic member, such as that taught by Azkona ('380), such that the handles of the pliers are normally biased apart.

3. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art in view of Azkona ('380), as applied to claims 1 and 4-6 above, and further in view of Balley et al. (6,014,917).

The applicant's prior art as modified by Azkona ('380) discloses the claimed invention except for the arcuate shape for the biasing member between the handles. Balley et al. ('917) discloses a pair of pliers and teaches that the biasing member between the handles has an arcuate shape. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the biasing member of the pliers of the applicant's admitted prior art, as modified by Azkona ('380), by altering the shape of the biasing member such that the biasing member has an arcuate shape, such as the arcuate biasing member of Balley et al. ('917), since the handles of a pair of pliers move through an arc when closed or opened, and as such, an arcuate shape for the biasing means would be desirable vs. a linear biasing means.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Balley et al., Bates et al., and Gomas et al. each disclose pliers having a biasing member between the handles of the pliers. Hsieh discloses a pair of pliers having a pivotal connection between the handles of the pliers and the jaws of the pliers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David B. Thomas whose telephone number is (703) 308-4250. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-4 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail can be reached on (703) 308-2687. The fax phone number

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


dbt

David B. Thomas
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3723